Progress of ongoing projects in Southern Railway

3478. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether progress of ongoing projects in Southern Railway is not satisfactory due to poor fund allotment by his Ministry as pointed out by the Standing Committee on Railways;

(b) whether for nine ongoing gauge conversion works, the zone needed Rs. 500 crores, but only Rs. 125 crores have been sanctioned;

(c) if so, what were other reasons put forward by the Standing Committee in its report on poor funding on Southern Railways projects;

(d) to what extent its recommendations have been accepted; and

(e) what are the steps being taken to complete those projects which have been incomplete due to fund allotment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The outlay for projects in particular States is done based on a transparent formula having weightage of 15% each for area and population of the State and 70% for throwforward of projects in the State. Project-wise allocation is based on progress of the project, operational requirement and overall availability of resources.

Projects in Southern Railways are also being progressed as per the funds provided as per the above formula and their operational priority.

(b) and (c) As per the Budget 2005-06, 10 gauge conversion projects are in progress in Southern Railway. Out of this, 3 gauge conversion projects have already been completed and remaining 7 projects are ongoing. As on 01.4.2005, the completion of ongoing gauge conversion projects require an outlay of about Rs. 1000 crore. During the current year, an outlay of Rs. 256.91 crore has been provided for gauge conversion projects which includes Rs. 135.10 crore through Non-Budgetary Resources.

Standing Committee on Railways (2005-06) in its 16th report on Expansion of Railway Network-New Lines, Gauge Conversion, Doubling and Electrification has mentioned about allocation of Rs. 5 crore only on

new line projects in Southern Railway against throwforward of Rs. 1000 crore.

(d) The report has just been presented to Parliament in December, 2005.

(e) A number of initiatives has been taken to generate additional funds.

Sanction of road over railway bridge

3479. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider early sanction of road over railway bridge, the flyover at Kaleshwara Rao Market, Vijayawada, on cost sharing basis as Vijayawada, Guntur, Tenali, Mangalgiri, Urban Development Authority Vijayawada has taken up the construction of road over bridge in lieu of level crossing No. 312 (T) at Kms. 427/25-27 near Kaleshwara Rao Market between Krishna Canal Station and Vijayawada station;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work of road over bridge at Kaleshwara Rao Market, Vijayawada was sanctioned on cost sharing basis at the cost of Rs. 19.14 crore with Railway's share as Rs. 9.37 crore and State Government's share as Rs. 9.77 crore. The work has since been completed and commissioned to traffic on 12.5.2005.

(c) Does not arise.

Production capacity of ICF and RCF

3480. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for growing demand of coaches due to introduction of several trains in the past, the manufacturing capacity of coach manufacturing units has to be increased;